



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
Dec. 27, 2007

For More Information, Contact:  
Molly Sander  
North Dakota Department of Health  
Phone: 701.328.2378  
E-mail: [msander@nd.gov](mailto:msander@nd.gov)

### **State Health Department Reminds Parents To Prepare for Upcoming Childhood Vaccination Changes**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is reminding parents whose children are covered by health insurance to prepare for upcoming changes to the state's immunization program, according to Molly Sander, Immunization Program manager.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, health insurance companies will be billed for vaccines given to children covered by their plans. To prepare for this change, parents are encouraged to check their insurance policies to see which childhood vaccines are covered, as well as to see if they are responsible for any deductibles, coinsurance and/or copayments that may be charged. In addition, parents should present their insurance cards every time their children are vaccinated.

“Although most insurance companies cover vaccinations, people don't always know the extent of that coverage,” Sander said. “That's why it's important for parents to check their insurance policies for vaccine coverage, deductibles and copays. To make sure their insurance companies are billed, parents need to remember to take their insurance cards with them when their children get shots.”

In the past, the federal government provided vaccines for all North Dakota children 18 and younger. However, because the number of recommended vaccinations has increased and the federal vaccine allotment has not, the Department of Health will no longer be able to supply vaccines for children who have health insurance. Instead, the patients' insurance companies will be billed for the cost of the vaccine and an administration fee. Children who are uninsured, underinsured (have health insurance that does not cover vaccination), eligible for Medicaid, or American Indian will continue to receive free vaccine through the Vaccines For Children program, a federal entitlement program.

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600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200  
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: [health@nd.gov](mailto:health@nd.gov)

*Visit the health department home page at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov).*

One of the most important things parents can do to protect their children is to make sure they are vaccinated against serious but preventable diseases. For more information, visit [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov) or contact Molly Sander, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378 or [msander@nd.gov](mailto:msander@nd.gov).

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